# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:208
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
ENTRY OF GAIL IN TELECOM SECTOR
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether GAIL has decided to enter the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the compulsions and technical inputs that have promoted GAIL to enter the Telecom Sector;

(c) whether telecom services would not be part of the core competency of GAIL;

(d) if so, whether the Government have approved of this diversion of GAIL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has an Optical Fibre Cable network of about 1800 K.M. along its pipeline systems for monitoring and controlling the pipeline operations. The capacity of this network can be put to optimum utilisation by leasing out the spare capacity to various telecom operators, which would generate additional revenue for the company.

(c) Captive telecom network from integral part of its pipeline operations and, therefore, GAIL has in-built competence in operating large communication network.

(d) & (e) In its new telecom policy 1999 (NTP,1999), Government has identified GAIL as a Telecom Infrastructure Provider and granted Category-II Infrastructure Provider Licence to the company.